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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we have a publicly-elected board to NPPD Board of Directors and they have the wherewithal to make decisions and we should give them the wherewithal to do that. They're going to make the best decisions they can for the ratepayers of the state of Nebraska. This management company that is being considered signing a contract with...by the way, NPPD signs contract with other people out of state and, depending on what jurisdiction that contract is in, it may be a Wisconsin jurisdiction. We don't know that. I don't think that should be the issue. The issue here is, are we going to trust our board to make the best decisions for the state of Nebraska? Clearly, regardless of who manages it, the citizens of the state of Nebraska are going to be responsible. The ratepayers are going to be responsible. I would reiterate that the track record of this management company is good where they have gone. The ratings for the nuclear plants have been increased, and if NFPD thinks this is the way to go, I think we should trust our publicly-elected board to do that. I think they'll make the best decisions. And to bring this back at this point in time is unnecessary. I don't think the amendment does what Senator Preister wants it to do. With that, I would return the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER BROMM: There are no further lights on. Senator Preister, you're recognized to close on your motion.

SENATOR PREISTER: Mr. President, it's my understanding that we're on Final Reading and everyone should be seated. Could I ask everyone to check in, please?

SPEAKER BROMM: Would everyone check in.

SENATOR PREISTER: I will go ahead with my closing as members are checking in, and for those who may have needed to step away, they will be returning. The amendment I think is important because I think it addresses some of the concerns that I have in terms of how much liability we're willing to expose the citizens and the ratepayers of Nebraska to. We do have a duly-elected board of directors, but in essence we're taking the authority away from that board. We're vesting it with a company outside the state of Nebraska to do the operation of the plant and we're